Mr. Biehn’s Student Teaching Week Three Journal

Cooperating teacher: Mr. Brenner

Supervisor: Dr. Dammers

Day one, March 29th

I have been continually working with the band class block on the piece “Fanfare Majestic.” The last B day, they sight read the piece so now we are going to start to get down to rhythms and pitches. I still wanted to play through the piece a few times to get them used to the overall feeling of the piece and if they can hear where the melodies come in and who has them. They are a lot of things that need to be fixed, but they were coming along nicely with reading through the piece for the second time. I think they are more anxious to play through the next piece but I am going to hold off on that one until they get comfortable with this piece, even though I don’t really like the piece either. It is good for them because it is exposed and they need to work on counting their measures of rest and come in on the correct measure or count.

Day two, March 30th

Today was my first observation with the Piano class. It went fairly well and they all understood the material. Most of them understood what I meant by fingering positions and we reiterated about playing the full value of the notes. They have been cutting off the last note of the phrase and not holding the half not or whole note full value. I tried to mention those things as I was playing and counting out the holds with the beats. They were following pretty well and one of my students said, “You are a good teacher.” It was nice but I’m sure they were just joking around like they usually do or putting it over the top because they knew my supervisor was in the room giving me bonus points.

Day three, March 31st

Today, we had a meeting with the departments of art, music, and language (ESL) teachers, plus our supervisor Mr. Cubbich. We basically went over some of the things that might need improvement for the next year. This was going on around the time that the impending doom and gloom of the future rifting was going to take place. None of the teachers were serious about the meeting because they felt that they could not discuss future plans for next year if they do not have a job. It was a touchy subject for the teachers during a crucial time. Supposedly the rifting was going to take place on April 1st which is tomorrow on Thursday right before Spring Break. Some of the students also noticed that it was “April Fools Day” and they started to joke around that a teacher would get a rift letter and then they would say “April Fools” and take it back or vice versa.

Day four, April 1st

This was the day of rifting and rice letters that were supposed to go out. They was much drama throughout the day and a lot of the teachers and substitutes came in to school wearing black which signified a mourning of losing jobs for themselves or for others. It was an odd day, seeing gossip take place. They thought that the letters were going to come out during the teacher’s prep period but instead they called them down at the end of the day when the students left but the teachers remained. Supposedly the Orchestra Director, Mr. Kline got one but it just meant that he was being bumped somewhere else in the school district. The process will go on for many weeks and will cause more havoc from here on out.

Day five, April 2nd

Spring Break Good Friday! OFF!